

Time Has Come



Lev Tolstoy

Time Has Come – by Lev Tolstoy

My life is coming to an end. I'm dying, and before I die, I want - not that I want, but I need to, as I'm not going to die peacefully without telling you, all people, my dear brothers, about that with what you're ruining yourself, with what you're ruining not only your bodies, your souls, but also your children.

I won't now talk about what is my teaching, I told this many and many times in other places. I will only tell about what results from yours not following it, what terrible sufferings of yours, what corruption of you and your children are, only because you don't follow it.

A consequence of this non-following is that you live in what is called a governmental state. This governmental structure is nothing more than such a clutch of people, in which the people, without knowing it, torment, kill themselves, kill their souls, regarding bad as good, and good - as evil.

But what is this – the state? Maybe, it is some kind of conqueror, villain, savage, who attacked you and captured you by force? It must be so, because everything it does to you only an enemy can do. And what, - there's no such an enemy, it's you yourself is the enemy. This enemy is that governmental device, with which you torture yourself, rob yourself, all of you, in favor of a small part of the corrupt people enjoying this rip-off.

But, maybe, it's impossible to live without a government? That's what at least they convince you. "Without a state, without power, without that robbery and those violent acts that are committed against you, you'll all be nonstop robbing each other, you'll slash each other". And you seem to believe in this and quietly allow to rob yourself, and not even that you allow to rob (this would at least be understandable), but you rob yourselves and give the loot to those who assure you that you need to rob yourselves and give them the loot.

In your minds everything is so messed up that you see everything in reverse. People, avoiding going through customs, transport goods, or sell at home

without paying duties, or settle on the land, which is considered the lord's, to feed, all of these people are considered to be criminals, and they are being captured, judged, imprisoned; and it doesn't come to anyone's mind, that the criminals are the ones who obstructs the transportation of goods across some kind of borders, or require tax off vodka, sugar; that criminals are not those who want to keep all that they earned, but those who rip some of it off; not those who want to feed off the land, but those that are not working on it, and don't allow anybody on it. Most importantly, the criminals are those who take people's freedom away for the fact that they acknowledge only the power of God over them, and refuse to acknowledge the power of people over them, don't want to go into judges, into soldiers, don't want to kill, to torment people.

It was told that a healthy, strong man can be brought into so much confusion, that he'll start believing that he is weak and cannot move any part of his body - that he'll believe that and will lie down and will let others do with him anything they want. Isn't it the same with you, with us, with all the peoples? You were led to believe not only that you are powerless, but that you yourself have to beat, torment, disgrace, corrupt yourself and your children. What for? For what are you ruining yourselves, your children, your bodies and souls?

For that, that there is a government, authorities, states, and you can't disobey them, that it always was that way.

But, firstly, what they call always – was not always, but for a long time – does not prove that this should be now. For a long, a very long time, people didn't know other life rather than pastoral, and other means of transportation rather than as their feet and feet of animals, and the word wasn't even written and nor printed. But this didn't stay that way forever.

This is firstly, and secondly, it's necessary to understand what a government is and what forces it possesses to dominate us. The government is the authorities. And the authorities are those people in whose hands we give away our lives. What are these people, special, the best, or at least the strongest? Neither that nor the other. These people seized the power by inheritance, or by unconscionable perversity, like Napoleon, Catherine, or

accidentally by cunning, also immoral, deceitful way had themselves elected.

That's what authorities are. And their power is that we ourselves support them with all our strengths. Their power is that we, for our little benefits, support them, participate in their crimes called laws, and for these small benefits we're ruining our own and other lives and souls.

It's time to wake up, time to regain our consciousness! It's also time because the sufferings, and most importantly, the corruption of the people, that is of us, is growing and growing and has reached the horrendous limits. Some kind of – I can't resist - villain called the emperor, or a scoundrel called the minister, for the most insignificant, frivolous, vain, selfish, low goals, comes up with an idea to attach small nations of the other states to his states, and he'll enter wars, and hundreds of thousands of people will go kill their brothers and die in battles.

It's time to realize that if there was time when the state authorities might be needed, there was time when they could be tolerated, there was time - the most recent - when people, though they saw the madness of obedience to the governments, could not come to their senses and get rid of the inertia of tradition, but it's time to understand that now the time came when rational beings, humans, can continue no longer consciously ruining their lives and souls and the lives and souls of their children. Time has come for people to come to their senses, and for the hypnotized person, who believed that he can't move any part, time to calmly get up, look around and just start living in a way that is intrinsic to every living creature. It's time for all people, especially of the Christian world, to understand that they bond, torment, destroy themselves, and to stop doing it.

Stop, at least, doing all that's contrary to the requirements and rewards of common sense, and, most importantly, of the morality. Stop, first of all, obeying those who call themselves the authorities, stop paying taxes, cease to acknowledge customs and rather import goods by a bypass, cease to acknowledge the courts, the police and the obligation to fulfill their requirements, stop surrendering to the power of military; stop, most importantly, taking part in any act of violence of governments.

"You want taxes, but I don't give them; you can take them away, but I don't give and I regard not myself as a criminal, but I regard you as robbers and criminals. You want me to bring goods through customs, but I'm bringing them by contraband and know, that I'm not the offender, but you are. The same is with the courts, and with the military service. I don't go into juries, nor into electors, nor into soldiers. Most importantly, not only I don't go either into guards, cops, collectors of taxes, nor into any servants of the governments, but I regard them, all people involved in government, as criminals, just as murderers are currently regarded as criminals."

"You're saying that if we eliminate the government, we'll all slash each other. But no matter how much you say this, I can't believe it, I can't because I am the person who doesn't have a slightest desire to cut my neighbors, just as neither of my neighbors and friends do. I see this desire only in you, and not only the desire, but also the execution. But from the fact that few people: the Emperor, kings, ministers, generals, the rich ones and all the governors, etc., have the desire to plunder and slash the people, and that's what they do, I can't conclude that the entire nation would want the same, and that, as a consequence of it stopped being tormented, it would immediately start to torment itself. I don't see this happening. I see only that the government is the leftover of a rough, ancient superstition, just like the superstition of sacrifices brought to gods, which existed earlier, can't even not to vanish".

"Okay, - they'll say, - but if this is the case, why, despite of the apparent harm of it, the government stays and stays, and people can't destroy it? Why is that?

There are two reasons for this.

The first one is that those people who now want to, and have tried to, and are trying to destroy the government, they're trying to accomplish this using the same means by which the government kept and keeps people's in its power. They're trying to destroy not the government, but only one of its forms, by replacing one with another, and by using the same violence, the same deception of the people, which torments them now, and with the destruction of one form of the government they'll torment themselves in another.

This is one of the reasons, and another reason is the corruption, especially religious, to which government has brought the peoples. The reason for this is that people don't believe in that, the only pertaining to our time, religious outlook on life, according to which all people are brothers and the purpose of life – is to increase love and connection, not to allow anything separating: hatred, animosity, inequality and, above all, violence. As soon as people start believing in this teaching (and they do believe, but only hesitant to live by it), when they'll believe in this teaching, or rather discard that what contradicts it and conceals it, they will immediately raise, just like that hypnotized man, and will begin to live truly human, in accordance with the consciousness of the whole mankind, life.

After all, only one is needed: to understand what the deception is, and not to participate in that violence, which ruins our lives, not to take part and not to oppose it with the same violence. Taxes? I do not give, just like I don't give to that robber, wishing to take money by force. You can take it away by force, but be sure to know that you are not the authority, not the government, but just robbers. Do the same – on customs, in the court, to recruiting into army, to an offer to participate in elections for a formation of the violent government. Only having tens, hundreds, and then thousands, tens of thousands of people done that, and the horrors of our lives will end. Wake up, brothers! Time has come.

But what will happen - to each individual and to the nation, and to that what is called a state? For the people, there certainly won't be any taxes anymore, no customs fees, no land ownership, taking the land away from the working, there won't be courts, prisons, executions, won't be wars, neither those in which people go to kill and die themselves, nor those in which foreigners come to kill and desolate the living. Some'll say: "it'll be worse". Let them say. What will be worse? My imagination refuses to come up with the worst. The worst that I can imagine is what happens in the darkest times of revolutions. But even then, all the horrors occurred because violence was still regarded as the only way to improve the situation. So, I even can't, and no one can, imagine what would be the worst for the people from ceasing their participation in violence.

But what will happen to an individual? In the worst case, the most incredible, it'll be that this man, not paying taxes, not recognizing the borders of states, refusing to carry out judicial and military duties, will remain alone, taxes will be taken away from him by violence, that he'll be subjected to penalties for the failure to comply with government requirements in general. I wanted to say that these hardships and dangers, which a man, remaining alone, will undergo in case of his refusal to participate in the state affairs, to say that these deprivations will be of lesser degree than those deprivations which he undergoes by living the statutory life. I'd like to say that, but that wouldn't be true. I wanted to say that the risk - of penalties for the failure to pay taxes, failure to comply with other requirements of the government, in particular, for refusing military conscription, pertinent not to everybody but only to those who are the subjects to it - will be less than those tribulations that people go through by participating in statutory life. But I repeat, it wouldn't be true, and can't be not true, because the blessing, both spiritual and carnal, is acquired only by an effort - spiritual, moral desire to live godly, for the soul. Without this, as a person was a slave, so he will be a slave and will never free himself from the slavery, which he carries within himself.

And the blessing of many people and the fulfillment of the truth cannot be achieved without sacrifice and self-denial. The sacrifice and self-denial are available only to the religious person, who lives not only for the body, but for the soul.

So what I'm calling you for - is this - to get rid of that evil by which we destroy our souls and the souls of our closest ones and our children. This cannot be achieved by talking and reckoning, but only by spiritual effort and sacrifice, which gives blessing to people and, most importantly, to the one who exhibits it.

People who either obey the most humiliating to human conditions enslavements, or commit the same atrocities as those from which we want to get rid of, want to be human, to have reasonable, good life. And this is the misconception. It can be understood that a person, not having an understanding of the deception of self-enslavement committed to him, is participating in it, or, without realizing that the reason for his oppression is

violence, instinctively follows animal instinct and reacts with violence for violence; but it is incomprehensible and unforgivable, when a man, understanding the deception, in which he is entangled, and all the evil that not only he alone tolerates, but his brothers are suffering from this deception, - participates in it himself, lashes himself and his brothers, robs himself of the fruits of his labors, participates, either by action, or by tacit agreement, in all of the atrocities of the administration, the courts, the army, in which he was told to participate, or, recognizing that the cause of his disasters is violence, commits them himself.

Yes, yes, terrible, almost inexplicable for a reasonable person, superstition of communion, eating the body and blood under the appearance of bread and wine, or atonement, etc., but even more astonishing is the superstition of subordination to the violence of the government, or committing the violence in order to destroy the violence: the revolutionaries.

Terrible are the deprivations, sufferings, risk, but, not to mention the revolutionaries, risking incomparably more than those who refuse to participate in the government, isn't that, currently, the same, or almost the same, risk to the people of government as well? Revolutionaries and bombs made chances equal - they were useful at least for that, and these chances are getting more and more equalized. So that now, if a person prefers obedience to the authorities, i.e. to the crappy people, to obedience to God and his conscience, then he does this only either out of folly or because he prefers lies to the truth, villainy – to the nobility, or if he himself prefers to do violence, as revolutionaries, - then it's only because he prefers atrocity – to humanity, hatred – to love, and lies – to the truth.

So this is done only calculatedly. But a human becomes a human only by sacrificing. There are proponents of superstition of state, who go to sacrifice for the sake of their superstition; there are, more and more often, such revolutionaries; and so there must be, and can't not to be among the people, I do not say: the Christians, but simply people who are reasonable and kind.

So then, be them, and you'll find the true blessing and you'll give it to people.

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